

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

New Claims 16-20 have been added. Thus, the claims currently pending in this application are Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-20, with Claims 2, 8 and 20 being the only independent claims.

The Official Action sets forth a rejection of independent Claims 2 and 8 based on the disclosure contained in U.S. Patent No. 6,497,436 to *DeBlock et al.* It is understood that this rejection is based on the interpretation, illustrated on page three of the Official Action, that the portion of the casing C forming the back side of the identified first casing portion corresponds to the claimed first cover and that the backplate 2 which encloses the case 1 corresponds to the claimed second cover.

To more clearly differentiate independent Claims 2 and 8 over the disclosure contained in *DeBlock et al.*, Claims 2 and 8 have been amended to recite that the latch mechanism is supported by the second cover and that the electric driving source is disposed within the first space defined between the first cover and the first casing portion. This differentiates the claimed invention over the disclosure contained in *DeBlock et al.* because according to the interpretation set forth in the Official Action, the electric driving source 42 disclosed in *DeBlock et al.* is mounted in the case 1 on which the latch mechanism is also supported. Thus, the electric

driving source 42 is not disposed in that portion of the mechanism disclosed in *DeBlock et al.* which is said to correspond to the claimed first space.

It is thus respectfully submitted that the anticipatory rejection of independent Claims 2 and 8, as well as the various dependent claims, is no longer appropriate and should be withdrawn.

New independent Claim 20 defines the door lock system of the present invention in terms of a housing, a latch mechanism and a link mechanism. The housing is comprised of a main body, a first cover and a second cover, with the main body comprising a first casing portion and a second casing portion. The first casing portion has an open end closed by the first cover with a first space between the first cover and the first casing portion. The second casing portion has an open end closed by the second cover with a second space between the second cover and the second casing portion. The first and second casing portions are connected to each other and are oriented relative to one another such that the open end of the first casing portion and the open end of the second casing portion face in directions perpendicular to one another. The latch mechanism which is adapted to latch the vehicle door with respect to the vehicle body is supported by the second cover. The link mechanism includes an electric driving source and a plurality of lever members that selectively lock and unlock the latch mechanism. The link mechanism is accommodated in the housing with each of the lever members being disposed within at least one of the first space and the second space. In addition, the lever members

include an open link coupled to the electric driving source to selectively lock and unlock engagement of the lack mechanism, and both the electric driving source and the open link are disposed within the first space.

As pointed out above, *DeBlock et al.* does not disclose that the electric driving source 42 is disposed within the first space as claimed. Rather, the electric driving source 42 is disposed within what is said to correspond to the claimed second space. Thus, new independent Claim 20 is also patentably distinguishable over the disclosure contained in *DeBlock et al.*

It is noted that new independent Claim 20 does not recite that the electric driving source is above the insertion groove into which the striker is movable to be received by a portion of the lack mechanism to latch the vehicle door relative to the vehicle body. Such language was previously added to Claims 2 and 8 to more clearly distinguish the claimed invention over the previous rejection based primarily on the disclosures contained in U.S. Patent No. 6,102,453 to *Cetnar*. Claim 20 is nevertheless patentable over the disclosure in *Cetnar* because *Cetnar* does not disclose a housing having the claimed arrangement of features together with a latch mechanism supported by the second cover of the housing, and both an electric driving source and an open link that are disposed within the first space, wherein the open link is coupled to the electric source to selectively lock and unlock engagement of the latch mechanism.

It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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